

# WHEN YOU WORK IN THE FIELDS

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WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW  
ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY



MARCH 1983 EDITION

This booklet tells you:

- *How* Social Security can help you and your family;
- *Why* your bosses must report your wages; and
- *What* to do if some wages are not reported.

There is room for you to write where and when you work and your wages. You may need this later.

Since this is your record booklet, fill in the blanks below:

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security Number

\_\_\_\_\_

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## How Social Security helps

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### SOCIAL SECURITY

helps people of *ALL* ages.

It can pay monthly checks to *YOU* or *YOUR FAMILY* in case of:

- *DISABILITY*—If you get sick or hurt and can't work for a year or more.
- *DEATH*—Should you die.
- *RETIREMENT*—Payments at age 62 or later.

*Also—MEDICARE* will help pay your medical bills when you are 65 (or have been getting disability checks for 2 years).

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### Why wages must be reported

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Social Security checks can be paid only if you have enough work credits. You get these when your boss:

- Reports your wages; and
- Sends in Social Security taxes due.
  - He or she must take some tax money from your pay;
  - And he or she pays some tax money from his or her pocket.

The amount of reported wages is added to your lifetime Social Security earnings record. The more wages reported, the bigger your Social Security check can be.

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### **Your Social Security card**

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Your Social Security card is very important. Your boss needs to copy the number from your card so he or she can report your wages. You will keep the same number all your life. Here are a few reminders:

- If you don't have a card (or lost it), go to any Social Security office.
- Never loan your card . . . or borrow one.
- Each family member who works should have his or her own personal Social Security card.

If you have questions about your card, work credits, Social Security checks, or anything else, the people at any Social Security office will be glad to help you.

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### Who must report your wages

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Your boss *must* report your cash wages after the year ends if:

- He or she pays you \$150 or more in the year; or
- You worked for him or her 20 days or more and were paid by the hour, day, week, or month.

*NOTE:* Your "boss" could be either the crew leader or the farmer. In most cases, your boss is the person who pays you.

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### When wages are reported

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Your boss must report your wages *by January 31* after the year ends. And he or she must give you "W-2" tax forms by then so you can file your Federal and State tax returns.

The W-2 forms show how much wages your boss paid you. And they show how much taxes he or she took from your pay.

There's a copy of the W-2 for you to keep. It is proof of your wages. Put it in a safe place. You may need it later.

If your job does not last all year, ask your boss for the W-2 forms when the job ends instead of January 31 of the next year. This is important if you move a lot and have trouble getting your mail.

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**How to make sure you get  
all your Social Security credits**

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- 1 Show each boss your Social Security card so he or she can copy the number.
- 2 Give each boss your mailing address so he or she can send you your W-2 forms later.
- 3 Write down where and when you work and your wages. This booklet has pages to help you do this.
- 4 Ask Social Security for a *free* statement of your earnings every 3 years. Then you can tell if all bosses have reported your wages. See next page to find out how to do this.



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### Statement of earnings

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Any Social Security office has a postcard form you can use to get your free statement of earnings. Or you can write to: *Social Security Administration, Office of Central Records Operations, Baltimore, MD 21201*. In your letter, write "Please send me a statement of earnings" and print the following:

- Your name
- Your mailing address
- Your Social Security number
- Your date of birth
- Any other names you have used on a Social Security card (such as a maiden name)

Be sure to sign your name before mailing the letter.

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### **If there's a mistake**

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It takes a few weeks to get your statement of earnings. Don't be upset if some or all wages for last year or year before are not yet shown. It takes time to record wages for millions of workers.

Contact any Social Security office right away if: amounts on the statement do not agree with your own records; or if you think a boss did not report some wages. The people there will be glad to help you.

Bring this booklet with you and any proof of wages you have such as W-2 forms or pay stubs. You may be asked to make a statement as to why you think your earnings are not correct.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

Address \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

**Your Boss** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

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[illegible]

Your Boss \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

Your Boss \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]



Your Boss \_\_\_\_\_

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Your Boss \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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**Your Boss** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

[illegible]

Your Boss \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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